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## Israel expanding winery on Golan

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli government has agreed to help finance a \$5 million expansion of a successful winery on the occupied Golan Heights, land Syria wants returned in a peace settlement. Segev Yarovani, director of the privately-owned Golan Heights Winery, told Reuters Sunday the industry ministry had recently approved a grant for \$3.8 million of the \$5 million. The rest of money will be raised privately, he said. The winery is owned by eight collective and semi-collective farms on the Golan Heights.

## Kuwaiti MP wants boycott report clarified

KUWAIT (R) — A member of parliament (MP) has asked the Kuwaiti government to clarify reports that a number of Arab states including Kuwait have placed a boycott of firms dealing with Israel, newspapers reported Sunday. Adnan Abdul Samad Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, an MP, said he had asked the Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah to inform the assembly about the rules governing Kuwait's implementation of the embargo.

## 9 killed after Iraq World Cup triumph

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Nine people were killed by gunfire during Iraq's World Cup celebrations here after the national side beat China, it was revealed here Sunday. The newspaper Al Jumhuriya reported more than 120 others were wounded by bullets after the Asian Zone Group A qualifying match on May 30. Under-Secretary of State for Health Chawhi Sabri branded the shootings "non-civilised acts" and said many people were still in critical condition in hospital. Interior Minister Wabban Ibrahim Al Hassan was also reported to have ordered "anyone committing similar acts in the future to be punished and to have their weapons confiscated." Celebrations in Baghdad after the 1-0 win went on during the night, with cars packing the streets and blowing their horns, the newspaper reported.

## Hardline alliance calls strike

DAMASCUS (R) — A hardline Palestinian alliance called Sunday for Palestinian in the Israeli-occupied territories to stage a general strike Tuesday to coincide with the start of the 10th round of Arab-Israeli peace talks. The Damascus-based alliance reiterated in a statement calls for Palestinians to abandon the negotiations as harmful to the Palestinian cause. "We call upon the Palestinian people to stage a general strike on June 15 as an expression of their refusal of... the peace track. We also call for another strike on June 16 to mark the sixth month of Israel's expulsion of (415) Palestinians to South Lebanon."

## Israel could lose in U.S. restriction

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel risks losing valuable funds next year when Washington starts making it a condition for the Pentagon to supply weapons through the Pentagon rather than directly from the Israeli government, the news media said Sunday. Starting in 1994, Washington will apply the restriction to countries that receive U.S. military aid such as Israel, whose annual military aid amounts to \$1.8 billion, Haaretz newspaper said. A share of \$475 million can be converted into Israeli currency and used freely by the Jewish state. The remainder must be used to buy American weapons.

## Unofficial Nigerian poll results held back

LAGOS (R) — Key Nigerian states finished counting their presidential election results Sunday, flying or driving them under heavy police escort to the capital Abuja. Under draconian rules officially intended to give Africa's most populous nation its first election, the media was banned from publishing partial official results but early returns showed Saturday's turnout was 55 per cent. Those who break the ban face imprisonment, the National Electoral Commission (NEC), created by Central Ibrahim Babangida's outgoing military government, has decreed.

# Bloodshed mars successful U.N. action in Mogadishu

## Pakistani troops kill 14 Somali protesters

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Pakistani U.N. peacekeepers opened fire Sunday on a crowd of Somalis protesting U.S.-led strikes against warlord Mohammed Farrah Aided, killing at least 14 people, including a two-year-old boy.

Another 23 people were wounded on the second consecutive day that Pakistani U.N. troops shot at apparently unarmed demonstrators.

They took to the streets to protest United Nations military

retaliation, led by U.S. forces, against General Aided for the June 5 killings of 23 Pakistani peacekeepers, many of whom were shot or stabbed, allegedly by Gen. Aided supporters, as they distributed food to needy Somalis.

After six Somalis died Saturday in Pakistani gunfire, Sunday's killings marked one of the bloodiest confrontations in the history of U.N. peacekeeping.

Among the dead were a two-year-old boy and another boy

about 10 whose head was blown off, as well as at least four women.

The bloodshed seems to have marred the relative success of air strikes against Gen. Aided's arms depots and radio station, and a garage owned by his chief financier Osman Ato which assembled "technicals" — pickup trucks mounted with machine guns.

Several hundred angry Somalis gathered near a roundabout where the Pakistanis had opened

fire Sunday. But they dispersed after a few minutes as U.N. tanks rumbled past and helicopter gunships hovered nearby.

"We'll kill 100 Americans even if it takes 100 years," said one Somali. Youths have erected barricades in the streets, and have hurled stones at foreign journalists.

Shortly before dawn Sunday, Pakistani troops in another area appeared to come under fire from Somali firing dozens of rocket-propelled grenades. The two buildings the Pakistanis were guarding were not damaged.

Brigadier-General Ikram Ul Hasan, commander of Pakistani forces in Somalia, denied his men were seeking revenge for the ambushes and said Somali gunmen in the crowd shot first.

"There was an initial report that their lives were threatened," he said. "They were fired upon."

Gen. Ikram also said it was possible Somali gunmen used women and children as shields, as officials claimed they did during the June 5 ambush.

He said his soldiers operated within their rules of engagement, which allow them to shoot at gunmen even in crowds.

With some 4,700 men, Pakistan has the largest U.N. contingent in Somalia. The Pakistanis are in charge of patrolling Mogadishu, Somalia's capital of one million people.

The U.N. currently has more than 18,000 soldiers in Somalia, including 4,000 Americans.

On Saturday, Pakistani soldiers fired at a group of stone-throwing



His Royal Highness Prince Faisal is sworn in as Regent for London and Washington Sunday (Petra Regent prior to His Majesty King Hussein's departure) — photo)

# King and Queen in London en route to Washington

LONDON (Agencies) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Sunday arrived in London en route to the United States for a several-day official visit.

During the visit, which comes in response to an invitation by U.S. President Bill Clinton, King Hussein will hold talks with President Clinton on issues of common concern, regional issues and bilateral relations.

The King will also meet with several senior American officials as well as American politicians and intellectuals.

Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein was sworn in as Regent during the absence of King Hussein abroad.

King Hussein and Queen Noor were seen off at the airport by Prince Faisal, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Ali Ben Al Hussein, Princess Basma, Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Royal Family members.

Also bidding farewell were senior civil and military officials, as well as the ambassadors of Britain and the USA in Amman.

The King is accompanied on his visit by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, His Royal Highness Talal Ben Mohammad, the military secretary of the King, and Chief of Protocol Mohammad Al Adwan.

After Washington, the King will travel to Rochester, Minnesota, for routine medical checks at the Mayo clinic, where he underwent operation last year.

Princess Basma, Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Royal Family members. Also bidding farewell were senior civil and military officials, as well as the ambassadors of Britain and the USA in Amman.

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# Experts put economy under microscope

By Samir Shafiq  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A national economic symposium, organised by the Centre for Strategic Studies and funded by the private sector, opened at the University of Jordan Sunday to examine the Kingdom's past successes and failures and debate the best suitable course for comprehensive economic development.

The symposium, which was attended by many Jordanian, Arab and foreign intellectuals and which will continue through Tuesday, was described by former Industry and Trade Minister Abdullah Ensour as being the answer to years of requests by the public and Parliament members for a full-fledged economic conference to know exactly where the country was going on economically.

Dr. Ensour chaired the symposium's first session, which included a 56-full-page presentation by Dr. Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, on the Kingdom's past financial performance, its present standing and the course being followed to achieve full monetary stability.

Dr. Nabulsi's paper, read on his behalf by Dr. Ahmad Mustafa

fa, head of the Central Bank's Research Department, detailed the near catastrophic financial situation which gripped the Kingdom in 1988, and explained the measures which were and are still being taken to put the financial standing of the country on solid footing.

Unemployment was the second topic which was put under the microscope by Dr. Mohammad Ameerah, an expert at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

Dr. Ameerah reviewed the situation since 1967 by examining the characteristics of the Jordanian labour market, the size of unemployment and how it might grow or retreat in the future. He analysed the reasons for Jordanian unemployment, touched upon the economic and social characteristics of those unemployed and submitted proposals to combat unemployment.

The RSS expert surprised the audience when he said that the recent high economic activity has reduced unemployment from a high of 18.8 per cent in 1991 to 14 per cent at the end of 1992 when the gross domestic product grew by 11 per cent.

The first session concluded with a presentation for Dr. Margaret Reid, a professor at the

University of Louisville, Kentucky, who spoke about "Institutional Preconditions of Privatisation in Market-based Political Economies: Implications for Jordan."

The second session featured four presentations, the first of which was by Dr. Yacoub Suleman on food security in Jordan in light of prospects for a Middle East peace settlement. The next presentation was given by Dr. Salem Boutros, a Jordanian agricultural expert, on "facts and ambitions" and the necessary mechanism to augment investment of resources."

The third presentation was given by Dr. Mohammad Shatanawi, head of the Centre for Water and Environmental Studies and Research at the University of Jordan, whose lecture was entitled "A view on Water Policy."

Dr. Shatanawi said that when he specialised in water studies, he never realised that water was a political issue rather than agricultural in the Mideast.

Dr. Abdul Rahman Fataftah, who works at the Higher Council for Science and Technology, concluded the second session with a lecture on the future prospect to develop animal wealth in Jordan.

The third session held in the

afternoon was an economic climax as Dr. Jawad Anani, minister of state for Prime Ministry, gave the audience a valuable presentation on the Jordanian economic philosophy over the past years.

Dr. Anani explained in detail how the Kingdom progressed economically amid many religious, political and security considerations and pointed out that it was high time for Jordan to formulate its own economic policies, away from dictated guidelines which have been drawn for the Kingdom by the World Bank since 1958.

Former Planning Minister Khaled Amin Abdullah reviewed in his presentation Jordan's development strategies from the 50s up to 90s while Hani Hourani, another lecturer, outlined the variables and non-variables in Jordan's economic problems and came out with "lessons for the future."

Sunday's last speaker was Khaled Al Wazani, whose lecture was entitled "Jordan's Economy and the Dutch Disease Example."

The major points of the lectures will be presented by the Jordan Times in the next few days.

# U.S. favours Palestinian 'zones of influence' in West Bank

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — The United States is pressing Israel and the Palestinians to move swiftly to reach agreement on establishing three Palestinian "zones of influence" on the West Bank, U.S. and Arab sources said.

Private talks on the issue have been held since mid-May among U.S., Israeli and Palestinian representatives in Norway, with envoys negotiating the shape such enclaves would take, the sources told AFP.

An enclave accord, which also would define the status of the Gaza Strip, would be the first palpable product of negotiations sponsored by the United States and Russia. The talks began 20 months ago, bringing Israel, the Palestinians, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon to the table.

The Norway talks, the same

sources said, came at the urging of Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Edward Djerejian and included representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

And no one involved in the private negotiations, so far, has been eager to talk about them. "We have nothing new about the (Mideast) peace talks," said State Department spokeswoman Sondra McCarthy.

But one State Department official, speaking privately, said Mr. Djerejian, who has the upper hand in the talks, is bent on their bearing fruit in the June round since he is expected to leave his post in September.

The same official said the Palestinian expellees, whom Israel expelled for suspected ties to Muslim fundamentalists, are now all but forgotten

in the mountains of southern Lebanon and no longer represent the same obstacle to progress they did during the last round, which ended May 13.

The talks in Norway focused on the outlines of the Palestinian zones of influence. AFP obtained a copy of a letter in Hebrew presented as the Israeli proposal, which traced three enclaves around Nablus, Ramallah and Hebron.

The Arab and U.S. sources said that Egypt, which supports the idea of the zones, proposed a map of its own with substantially more ample enclaves. And the United States has traced its own proposed mid-sized enclaves.

Saudi Arabia has been involved with the initiative, and the United States is trying to convince Riyadh to foot the bill for the upkeep of the zones.

The idea of beginning with

"influence zones" as a point of departure towards authority transfers is not a new one.

Nabil Shaath, an adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, suggested in May that discussions on the issue were under way, saying efforts had been made to define the "geographic framework" of Palestinian autonomy.

The PLO leaders said in an interview with the Israeli daily Haaretz that a piece of the West Bank be placed, like the Gaza Strip, under Palestinian authority.

Talks on the enclave seem to have progressed far enough for hardline Palestinians with the Hamas movement to criticise what they see as unacceptable concessions in the zones.

In Amman, peace negotiator Faisal Husseini said Saturday that Palestinians could resort to other options, including armed struggle against Israel,

if the peace talks failed.

Mr. Husseini, overall coordinator of the Palestinian peace team, also said he saw no reason for Washington not to resume a dialogue with the PLO, severed in 1990 after an abortive sea raid on Israel by a hardline faction.

Asked what would happen if the peace process collapsed, Mr. Husseini told Jordan Television.

"If this happens it means that we will go back to another option. Now we are working and we have all options, including the peace process, including the peace option."

Mr. Husseini added: "We have not lost other options, we have the right to go to other options, including fighting on the ground, including armed struggle."

There has been some progress but no breakthrough on the key issues. In the mean-

time, opposition to the peace process throughout the Middle East has intensified and the political positions of some of the key players have weakened.

Few observers expect dramatic developments in this round either, although observers do not see the peace process in danger of immediate collapse.

"While the short-term vital signs look healthy, the overall prognosis is not so bright," said Robert Sattoff of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

He said the key could be the willingness of the United States to start leaning on the parties to make concessions.

"Breakthrough will demand a larger infusion of political will and — most importantly — brinkmanship than Washington had originally bargained for," he said.









**VIENNA CONFERENCE:** His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday leaves Vienna to address the World Conference on Human Rights which started there Sunday. Prince Hassan's visit comes in response to an invitation from United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali to address the meeting. Prince Hassan is accompanied by Jordan's permanent representative to the European headquarters of the U.N. in Geneva Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf. He was seen off at the airport by their

Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein and Princess Alia Al Faisal, Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Karaki, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, Private Chamberlain Prince Ali Ben Nayef, senior government officials and the Austrian ambassador in Amman. Taking part in the conference are some heads of state, international figures and representatives of international organisations concerned with human rights.

## New democracy society defends its objectives

Maintains aims 'in no way' conflict with centre formed by royal decree

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — The recent establishment of a society for enhancing democracy in Jordan has apparently aroused the discontent of concerned authorities who anticipated a clash of objectives with the Arab Human Rights and Democracy Centre (AHRDC), founded less than a month earlier upon the directives of His Majesty King Hussein.

Kamel Qaisi, the president of the National Society for the Enhancement of Democracy and Liberty (JUND), told the Jordan Times that three weeks after JUND's licensing (from the Ministry of Culture), he was called by then Minister of Interior, Jawdat Shoul, who, having fears of contradictions in objectives between both organisations, asked Dr. Qaisi to 'slow down'.

Dr. Qaisi, a founder of several other voluntary societies, ex-

plained to the minister that the society's establishment was a response to the King's continuous calls for enhancing democracy, stressing that the society's objectives in no way contradict those of the AHRDC.

"The society's role is a complementary to the centre and not a competitive one," insisted Dr. Qaisi.

He indicated that the idea of forming such a society emanated when the King called for promoting democracy and political pluralism in his speech to the Command College last Nov. 24.

Shortly after, Dr. Qaisi, along with a group of politicians and intellectuals, decided to found JUND.

The AHRDC was established upon the King's call in his speech from the throne on Dec. 1.

"We are a non-governmental organisation that aims at raising public awareness of the principles of democracy mainly through

pedagogic channels," said Dr. Qaisi. If necessary "we might act as a pressure group on the government."

While the AHRDC, Dr. Qaisi explained, is an official one that mainly concentrates on research and studies, rather than the "practical approach our centre concentrates upon." JUND applied for legal status on Jan. 1 and received it on Mar. 2.

The AHRDC, formed according to King Hussein's directives, was established on Feb. 9.

JUND's founding committee includes Taher Al Masri (former prime minister), Awad Khleifat (former minister of higher education), Abdul Salam Al Majali (the current Prime Minister), Sultan Hattab (journalist), As'ad Abdul Rahman (director of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation), Adel Abu Khajil (businessman), Salah Jarrar (writer) and Taleb Rifa'i (professor), in addition to Dr. Qaisi.

The founding committee, which convened on April 29, set the guidelines of the society's regulations and objectives and elected an administrative committee that includes: Kamel Qaisi, Sultan Hattab, Mu'ayyad Mijyar (engineer), Nazek Bitar (of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Jaser Tadros, Salah Jarrar, Adnan Tobasi and Taleb Rifa'i.

"Strong advocates of human rights and democracy appeared in the administrative committee's list," said Dr. Qaisi.

JUND's main objective would be to demand and insist upon the implementation of democratic principles and human rights. It will also serve as a forum for all parties and institutions in favour of human rights.

Mu'ayyad Mijyar, vice-president of JUND's administrative committee, told the Jordan Times that there are strict regulations in accepting new members

into the society's ranks. "The society is for everyone," he said. "But we (as an administrative committee) insist on 'quality rather than quantity' to make real progress at the level of enhancing democracy and implementing human rights, in all its aspects, in the country."

As part of the society's activities, a two-day seminar on transition to democracy is scheduled for August. The seminar, a joint effort of JUND and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (the sponsors of the seminar), will concentrate on subjects related to election methods and laws, and previous and other experiences in this regard.

Mr. Mijyar said the society relies on grants and donations as well as on membership fees. In order to better achieve its objectives, it will also establish contracts with other societies, organisations and institutions of similar objectives and interests, he added.

## Shipping agents propose amending U.N. guidelines in sanctioning Iraq

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — The Shipping Agents Association (SAA) in Jordan has voiced complaints over the continued practice on the part of the enforcers of the U.N. sanctions on Iraq against ships bound shipping.

SAA Chairman Tawfiq Kawar told the Jordan Times that the Jordanian government has been strictly observing the sanctions rules against Iraq over the last 33 months, allowing only food and medicine to pass, but nonetheless cargo vessels are continuously diverted or turned back from Jordan's only port.

Claiming that the sanctions enforcers are not applying the same rules to Turkish and Iranian ports, Mr. Kawar said the enforcers practice last year cost Jordanian importers a surcharge of \$35 million.

The SAA will continue to closely examine with the con-

cerned authorities the aspects of major amendments to the sanctions guidelines to make them more practical and less damaging, said Mr. Kawar.

These amendments, he said, could take the shape of allowing non-Aqaba cargo to be segregated in separate holds on the ships and sealed, while Aqaba cargo will be made accessible to inspection by the enforcers.

This will enable lines which operate from the Far East to Europe via Aqaba to resume their calls at Aqaba, suggested Mr. Kawar.

He said the SAA has presented a memorandum to the minister of transport requesting that the government seriously examine the possibility of approaching the United Nations to reconsider lifting the inspection or at least adopt the proposed scheme.

## 28 children to spend a month abroad

By Etia Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**AMMAN** — A group of 28 Jordanian children will later this month head for seven different countries to take part in summer activities with children from other nations under a programme organised by the Children International Summer Villages (CISV), an organisation of which Jordan is a member.

The 28 children are part of seven groups whose destinations are Brazil, Canada, the United States, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Honduras. Hala Aghabi, deputy president of the Jordanian Summer Villages Society (JSVS), told the Jordan Times, Saturday, "Each group of four children, two boys and two girls, aged 11-12, will be accompanied by a leader on their month-long residence at the summer camp activities," said Mrs. Aghabi.

"Noting that the children's parents are covering the cost of their air fare, Mrs. Aghabi said that CISV branches in the respective countries are arranging for accommodations at schools for all the visitors who will be coming from 12 different countries.

Leaders will design the various functions at the camps, she said.

Such summer camp activities

are extremely beneficial for the children since they afford them an opportunity to learn about other countries or sites, as well as share their own Jordanian traditions via national dances, songs and other functions during their stay, said Mrs. Aghabi.

After 12 years of being affiliated to the CISV, which groups societies from 75 countries, the Jordanian society will next year host groups of children from Sweden, Spain, Italy, Austria, France, Norway and Lebanon, announced Mrs. Aghabi.

She said the summer camp activities for these children, to be held between July 10 and August 10, 1994, together with the accommodations and tours will be sponsored and covered by the society here.

The Jordanian society is eager to participate in this annual programme, Mrs. Aghabi said.

The CISV is a voluntary, non-profit group, affiliated to the Ministry of Social Development. The children, who will start leaving for their camps as of June 24, will be participating in a wide-range of activities, including sports, sightseeing tours, handicraft work, children's seminar and visits to local families in their host countries, explained Mrs. Aghabi.

## 6 party nominees listed for parliamentary candidacy

By Sansan Ghosheh  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — The Jordanian Democratic People's Party (JDPP) announced Sunday a preliminary list of their nominees for the upcoming parliamentary elections taking "towards a harmonious, unified, democratic, national opposition" as their motto.

The list, read at the party's conference, consists of six nominees, one of whom is currently representing the Zarka district in Parliament, Bassam Haddadin.

The other five are Salem Al Nahas, who was nominated to run in Madaba, Hussein Abu Ruman, who was nominated to run in Balqa, Samih Khalil, nominated to run in Amman's first district, Ahmad Yousef, nominated to run in Amman's second district, and Mohammad Abu Al Rub, who was nominated to run in Irbid.

No steps were taken by the party to nominate a woman. General Secretary of the JDPP Tayseer Al Zibri stressed that this decision does not reflect the ideology or composition of the party, which has historically supported women's rights and welcomed women in their ranks.

Nominees were primarily chosen for their strong prospects for victory in the elections. Women, he added, have little chance in securing parliamentary seats because of the prevailing social discrimination against them.

The JDPP nominations are subject to revision if an agreement of cooperation is reached by different political parties, forces and individuals in the Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance — a group that contains Jordan's left and pan-Arab institutions.

"If a national consensus for the elections has been reached, the final nomination list will be decided by an agreement of all those concerned... democratic parties do not want to run against each other... past experiences should be a lesson for us," Mr. Zibri said.

The electoral campaign of the JDPP focuses around its opposition to what it sees as the "unjust preconditions" and principles of the ongoing peace process and its determination to strengthen democracy and protect an adequate living standard for all the underprivileged.

Mr. Zibri took the opportunity of the press conference to express disappointment with the Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali for undertaking important decisions with-

out a parliamentary vote of confidence.

The decisions emphasised by the JDPP are the resumption of the Middle East peace talks and the implementation of economic policies requested by the World Bank.

"Dr. Majali's government, which is currently operating without a vote of confidence from Parliament, is placing itself in a position to lose the public's trust with its World Bank policies," Mr. Zibri asserted.

The JDPP further called on the Jordanian government to suspend the current talks with Israel and rebuild them on the bases of international legitimacy and a comprehensive peace settlement that guarantees Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territories it occupies.

In addition, the party voiced its dissatisfaction with the "unfair" parliamentary election law, calling for the enactment of a "modern democratic election law" containing a single district block voting system of "proportional representation" and multi-district individual nominations.

This composition, Mr. Zibri said, takes into consideration the special characteristics of the Jordanian society and ensures a fair representation system.

## Power link-up protocol signed

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — Ministers of energy and electricity in Jordan and four other Middle Eastern countries Sunday signed a protocol paving the way for cooperation among their countries in the exchange of electric power and linking their national grids.

The protocol authorises heads of electricity departments in the five countries to meet and design programmes for implementation of the two-stage project which will be completed by the year 2002 and benefit nearly 150 million inhabitants in Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Turkey.

The ministers agreed under the protocol to request that the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) which are financing the project, to start providing the funds before Jan. 1, 1994. The cost of the project is estimated at \$384 million and the network of cables to be laid are said to cover 2.5 million square kilometres in the five countries.

The protocol is expected to bolster ties among the five countries and enable them to benefit from the common service offered

by the linkage, said the ministers of Egypt, Iraq and Syria in statements following the signing ceremony.

It reflects the true feelings among the people of the same region and their determination to share the benefits of technology, including energy which is essential for a healthy economy, the ministers said in interviews with the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

According to Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Walid Asfour, the protocol will become official once it has been signed by the concerned governments within 180 days.

## Minister urges increased promotion of India-Jordan fertiliser production

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Saket Sunday opened a five-day fertiliser seminar with a call on India and Jordan to help each other in promoting the fertiliser industry and in boosting agricultural production.

"We must intensify our efforts to increase the production and at the same time improve methods to safeguard against any environmental hazards," said the minister in his opening address.

Indian and Jordanian experts in the fertiliser industry, based on the use of phosphate and potash, are taking part in the meeting.

The delegates will review 17 working papers related to the industry and focus on India's experiences and means of improving the phosphate and potash production in Jordan. The importance of inorganic fertilisers lies in that they provide about 40 per cent of the nutrients for world crop, therefore the use of these fertilisers is expected to increase in the future, said Dr. Saket.

Thabet Al Taher, president of the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Coordination Committee paid tribute to Indian-Jordanian cooperation in the field.

He said India and Jordan

established a joint venture in 1992 to produce phosphoric acid and other fertilisers at the Shideh phosphate mines in Jordan.

Mr. Taher added that India, although a major producer of fertilisers, will continue to need large quantities of the product, and Jordan, as a major producer of raw materials and fertilisers, can cooperate closely with the sub-continent in this area.

The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and the Arab Potash Company (APC), he said, will continue to pursue efforts to promote the cooperation and facilitate trade mechanisms between the two countries.

## Officials urge enforcement of law banning smoking in public places

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — Health Minister Abdul Rahma Malhas Sunday opened a day-long seminar aimed at combating smoking by pointing to the numerous health hazards related to the nicotine habit and urging citizens to give it up.

The minister's views were echoed by Zuhair Malhas, president of the National Jordanian Anti-Smoking Society, who complained that most health institutions in Jordan were ignoring a 1977 law against smoking in public places.

The 1977 law calls for fines and prison terms for persons found smoking in public places, said Dr. Malhas.

Although Jordan was among the first group of countries to issue a law against smoking, in a bid to protect public health, many

institutions have overlooked the regulations and appeals to implement them were neglected, Dr. Malhas said.

What is required of the health institutions in Jordan, is to take a firm decision against tobacco, which they realise is harmful to humans, he demanded.

It is regrettable that hospitals in Jordan have failed even to urge their own doctors to refrain from

smoking in public and in their clinics, and it is sad to see several government institutions contributing to the cultivation of tobacco in Jordan directly or indirectly, complained Dr. Malhas.

Dr. Ahmad Barnawi, head of the Health Ministry's Communicable Diseases Department reviewed the ministry's efforts to stem the smoking habit.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by artists Nawal Kattan and Dodi Tabbara at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Mariam Naerobout at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of Japanese paintings and photos at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Salem Al Dabbagh, Himat Ali and Karim Rasm at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Gallery — opening ceremony at 6 p.m.

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## Rights for all

THE U.S. on Saturday chose to turn a blind eye to violations of human rights reportedly taking place in Turkey and decided instead to extend to that country military aid amounting to U.S.\$227 million. Only last week, the respected human rights organisation, Amnesty International, scolded the U.S. for continuing to lend military aid to countries that have dismal human rights records. The U.S. secretary of state, Warren Christopher, whose State Department had just accused Turkey of widespread violations, said during his current visit to Ankara that U.S.-Turkish ties were based on "many other factors" than human rights.

In addition to the State Department, another human rights organisation, the Helsinki Watch, said in April it was disturbed by a continuous pattern of suspicious deaths in southeast Turkey where most of the country's Kurdish minority live. Just on the other side of the border with Iraq, the U.S. and its Western allies pose as the guardians of the human rights of the Iraqi Kurds who also for years were targeted by the Iraqi regime.

This double standard in dealing with essentially the same issue poses some difficult questions for world delegates, both official and public, at the Vienna human rights conference which opens today. True, Mr. Christopher, while defending his country's decision to extend military aid to Turkey despite reports of human rights violations, has been quoted as saying "our record in the United States is not perfect either." But if this is indeed the case, then the U.S. State Department should stop issuing human rights reports and should not tie development aid and "most favoured nation" status to violations in this field. This, needless to say, will not happen. But unless the U.S. and its Western allies, the original authors of the human rights charter, prove to Third World countries and peoples that the human rights issue will be divorced from the dictates of narrow interests, no one will have faith or belief in both the West and its ostensible quest for a humane world.

Peoples' human rights around the world must not be made hostage to dictators serving Western interests nor should they be used to repress yearning for freedom and democracy. The U.S. and the West will have to provide more than promises and slogans for Third World representatives at the Vienna conference to convince them of the need to sign any new declaration.

Any progress in the human rights situation world-wide does not depend on declarations alone. These, as we have seen time and again, can be used against the advancement of human rights. What is needed now, at the Vienna conference, is concluding a mechanism for applying the human rights declaration universally for the benefit of human kind equally in the West and East, North and South.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily on Sunday called on the Israeli government to deal with the Arab-Israeli peace process with more seriousness, noting that the Arab parties have done all that is possible to attain the aspired peace. As preparations are going ahead for the 10th round of talks to open in Washington Tuesday, no sign has appeared yet that the Israelis will soften their stand for the sake of implementing U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, said the daily. The Arabs have been patient and will continue to be patient, hoping that the Israelis will opt for reason and for objective attitudes that would facilitate peace and stability in the Middle East, the paper continued. As the 10th round approaches, one cannot help recalling King Hussein's words that the present chance for peace could be the last, it added. The time has come for the Israelis to deal objectively and positively with the situation and accept the bartering of land for peace as provided for in the U.N. resolutions which also formed the basis for the present negotiations, the paper said. The paper said that with the United States playing the role of full partner in the coming talks, it is hoped that the two sides to the peace talks will finally reach an acceptable formula that would ensure a lasting peace.

KING HUSSEIN's visit to the United States assumes a significant importance, being made during the 10th round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks, said Sawt Al Shaab daily. This visit is bound to stimulate the peace process and to help smoothen relations with the United States following the developments in the region, including the Gulf war, said the daily. Needless to say that in his talks with President Clinton, the King will reaffirm the Arab position with regard to the international legitimacy and the need for the implementation of U.N. resolutions and the exchange of land for peace, added the paper. The King, it said, will no doubt carry the Arab Nation's message of peace to the United States, demanding a just and permanent solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the restoration of Palestinian rights. In this light, and in view of recent U.S. pledges that Washington would play the role of full partner in the peace process, said the daily, the King is certain to accomplish very positive results by this visit.

## Weekly Political Pulse

# Jordan is treaty-obligated to amend election law

ONE OF the basic reasons often advanced to justify envisaged changes to the existing electoral law is to introduce the one-man-one-vote principle. Obviously there are two schools of thought on the subject and each carries weight. For starters, the one-man-one-vote rule is well-enshrined in the customary international law and has already found expression in all relevant international resolutions and instruments.

In spite of the clarity of this electoral principle on the international level, I recently discovered and by sheer chance that we in Jordan have another "impression" about it, that is totally unrelated to the world conception. I hasten therefore to explain that for the purposes of this article the criterion of one-man-one-vote shall mean that electoral districts must have basically the same number of people.

The term one-man-one-vote was coined internationally to bestow on voters the same political weight when it comes to electing peoples' representatives. In other words, 100,000 people in any given electoral district must elect the same number of parliamentarians as in another electoral district that is populated by the same number of people. Under no circumstances can an electoral district with 10,000 people have the same number of representatives as one that has 60,000 or more people.

As a matter of fact, the United Nations Assembly coined and codified this principle right from the start, beginning with the decolonisation era in the fifties and sixties. The rationale behind it was simple: equality between men cannot be attained if one

enjoys more political weight and clout than the other. The principle turned into a cardinal one ever since the United Nations pronounced itself on the subject and remains to be a well-guarded doctrine that various international bodies respect and promote.

There is clearly another side to the coin that minorities, whether religious or ethnic, often subscribe to and defend. In order for such minorities to assure their equitable representation, they insist, as indeed some Jordanian minorities also do, that an exception be made as far as they are concerned for the obvious reasons mentioned already. What we have, therefore, is a clash between two "rights" that are not easy to reconcile.

First of all, we need to define who is and who is not a minority. Is a Jordanian Arab who belongs to the Christian faith a minority or not? By existing international standards, the definition of minorities does not include division between people on strictly religious grounds simply because international norms, a *fortiori* domestic legislations, do not condone distinction on the basis of religion. Admittedly it is a tricky issue whether an Arab Jordanian becomes a minority because he belongs to a faith that is different from the faith of another Arab Jordanian. The emphasis here is on Arab Jordanian as the basic common denominator in the Jordanian family. And if one wants to entertain fine distinctions between the same Jordanian Arabs on religious grounds, one wonders where to draw the line and stop the proliferation of any such differentiations.

For example, shall we tolerate distinctions, for voting purposes, between the different factions in Islam and Christianity?

Obviously the subject is complex and there are no easy answers. It would be prudent to lay to rest the overall issue of whether the people of Jordan are Jordanians of different faiths and ideologies and just leave it there. Otherwise we could be in for all sorts of spinoff ramifications that could flout the very foundation of pluralistic democracy in the country.

Should we wish to address the legitimate issue of adequate regional representation, irrespective of the number of citizens domiciled in any underpopulated area of the Kingdom, the normally acceptable way to accomplish that lawful objective is by following in the footsteps of other democracies, by assigning equal representations in the Upper House, the Senate, to all regions of the country, irrespective of the population density. This has been the rule of the thumb in countries that preceded us in the introduction of pluralistic democracy and it appears to be the one viable one.

So it seems appropriate to amend our election law in order to correspond to international rules. As a matter of fact we are treaty-obligated to do just that. The various international conventions that Jordan has already ratified would seem to foreclose any further deliberations on the subject since, according to them, we should apply this one-man-one-vote as a matter of treaty obligation.

## Italians' revolt against the old ways is already getting results

By Gianni Vattimo

TURIN — While our judges continue to investigate widespread governmental corruption, uncovering a vast network of illegal political financing and private kickbacks, we Italians hear a lot of talk about a revolution. The latest scene in this revolution was an alley behind the Uffizi Gallery in Florence where a car bomb announced that terrorists, probably the Mafia, had declared war on civil society.

"Revolution" may be an overstatement, but most Italians see it as comparable in importance only to the fascists' downfall at the end of World War II.

The proof lies in the fact that television news broadcasts and political debates have gathered ratings close to, sometimes even greater than, those of soap operas, musicals, comedies and game shows.

Sceptics claim that the revolution is essentially a media event, a spectacle, entertainment. As so often in the past, everything will boil down to a *grande bouffe* of televised and newspaper prattle resulting in a colossal purification, the catharsis occurring only on stage.

A vote in the Chamber of Deputies on April 29 seemed to corroborate the sceptics' position: It denied Milanese courts the authorisation they requested to prosecute Bettino Craxi, the former prime minister, accused (on compelling grounds) on a number of counts of corruption.

After the media had identified Mr. Craxi as a central player in political corruption, and after most of the political parties had pronounced themselves for prosecution, the secret votes stood the entire situation on its head. Mr. Craxi was tacitly exonerated.

Sceptics and pessimists believe that the prosecutions of other high-profile politicians will proceed in a similar fashion.

Of the 2,500 figures implicated in the scandal, some will be tried and some will even be found guilty. But the sentences will probably be overturned at the conclusion of the interminable appeals allowed under law.

Public attention, meanwhile, will be distracted, gripped by some other more pressing concern — an international crisis such as Bosnia, or financial crisis in Italy's public services.

The pessimists have their points. But there are also solid reasons for believing that the revolution will produce a truly lasting transformation.

The independence of the judiciary has been rediscovered. For years the courts had given up on vigorously prosecuting politicians for crimes of corruption. Many politicians argue that for all practical purposes all laws against corruption and clandestine financing of parties have been abrogated. Mr. Craxi publicly denounced them as the fruit of hypocrisy, since, as he claimed, all parties have been illegally financed for years and everyone has been aware of it. But the courts have now broken this climate of silent complicity. They have returned to a pillar of modern constitutional democracy: the separation of judiciary power from the legislative and executive branches of government.

The voters have rebelled. If the courts have rediscovered their proper, autonomous function, this is due to a change in the political climate. Everything does not boil down to televised debates and warrants for arrest.

Voters have demonstrated a concrete desire to oust the governing political class.

Two referendums — one in June 1991 and the other this past April — have changed the way senators and deputies are elected. Along with the political elections in 1992, the referendums challenged the interests and platforms of the parties in power.

Moreover, throughout Italy where mayoral campaigns are being held we are witnessing an unexpected revitalisation of political interest on the part of long-apathetic citizens.

Among candidates who stand a good chance to be elected mayor in Turin, Milan and Catania are people who have never dealt with the traditional parties and are supported by professionals, workers, university students and business managers.

Big business is detaching itself from the governing parties. It has long supported the governing class, often invoking the excuse that it needed to fight communism. And it has long engaged in illegal contributions, kickbacks and bribes. Today, private enterprise has chosen to keep its distance from politics. The other day, Fiat issued a stringent code of ethics for all its employees to follow in their dealings with public authorities. Even if the code just called for more scrupulous observance of laws already in effect, it would be unprecedented.

No longer will Italian enterprise be a dependable ally and silent accomplice of the old parties.

There has been a break in the connivance between governing parties and the Mafia.

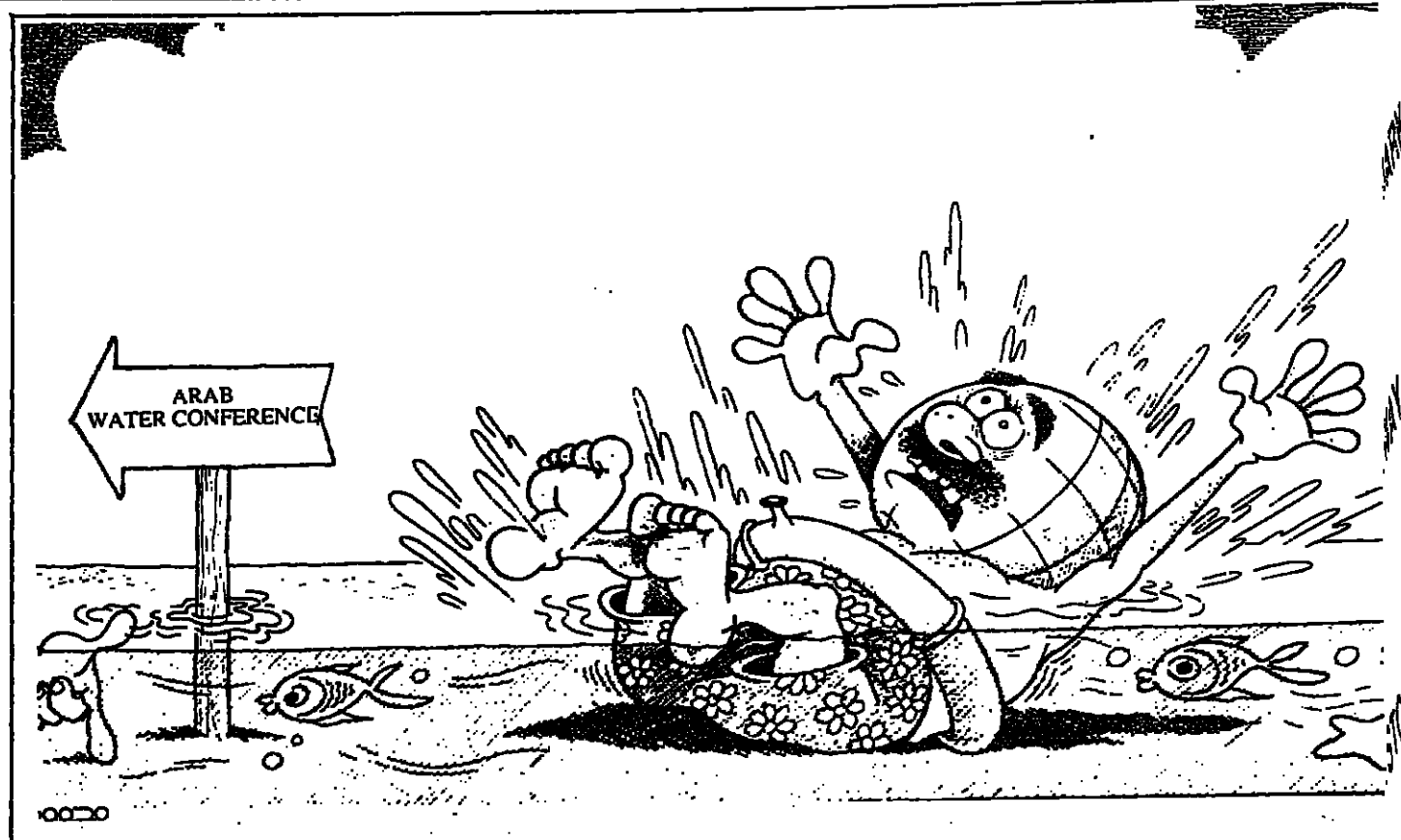
Several events point towards the end of political corruption. The Uffizi bombing is the most impressive evidence of the break; by this terrorism, the Mafia tried to destabilise the beginning of political renewal. Then there was the assassination of Salvo Lima, a powerful Sicilian deputy of the Christian Democratic Party and friend of former Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, whom parliamentary investigators say has had close ties with the Mafia — as well as the accusations against Mr. Andreotti.

Having turned into a huge multinational organisation, smothering the financial markets of the world with revenue from drugs, the Mafia has become too cumbersome a partner for Italian political power.

For years it provided an electoral consensus and broke unions in a predominantly agricultural society. More recently it became a useful accomplice in illegal exchanges of funds among business, politicians and corrupt officials. The Lima assassination attests to the collapse of this balance. Political figures have suffered reprisals because they can no longer guarantee the Mafia the impunity and increasing cover it had come to expect.

None of this is likely to vanish soon — the judiciary's new independence of the executive branch, the political revitalisation of civil society and youth, the detachment of business from the traditional governing class and the break in the connivance between political power and organised crime. We may have grounds for believing that things will finally change.

The writer is a professor of philosophy at the University of Turin. This comment is reprinted from The New York Times.



## Saudi prince warns of water conflicts in Middle East

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — Tensions in the Middle East over dwindling water supplies could lead to conflicts if urgent steps are not taken to settle quotas, according to Saudi Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud. Prince Talal, speaking in Rome as president of the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organisations (AGFUND), says a growing population is placing an intolerable burden on the region's fragile water supply, posing serious threats to peace and food security.

"Water resources are vital to the future development of the world and to our region in particular," said Prince Talal, brother to the king of Saudi Arabia, Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz. "We have to promote sound practices and a legal framework for the best use of these resources, especially in the case of rivers since such situations can pose problems for bordering countries... Water resources are not unlimited. Therefore we must take appropriate measures for their use."

A recent survey shows that the Middle East, the Near East and North Africa, a region which up until 1960 was a net exporter of food, has now become the largest food-importing region in the developing world. "This survey shows that the region is threatened by a deficit in staples such as cereals, sugar, oil, milk and meat," said Prince Talal. "There are tremendous risks for the future unless this problem is dealt with at the root level and we make the most of the water that is available."

With the arid region's 159 million population growing by an average of 3 per cent each year, the water crisis looks set to worsen, say hydrologists. Countries already beset by water shortages will be joined by other nations as overall supplies diminish and demand steadily increases. Knock-on effects will include environmental, social and economic problems, they warn. Farmers will abandon their lands, swelling the ranks of urban migrants, and public health will be threatened. And as the crisis really begins to bite, conflicts could erupt between countries sharing rivers or common aquifers.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali was one of the first to warn of the outbreak of "water wars" back in 1985 when, as Egypt's foreign minister, he predicted: "The next war in our region will be over the waters of

the Nile." Egypt, which depends almost exclusively on the Nile for its water, is known to be worried that its supplies will suffer as greater demands are made on the river by countries upstream with soaring populations. Egypt's own population is expected to increase by 25 million by the year 2010, and it urgently needs to irrigate more land to grow more food.

The 6,700 kilometres of the Nile, the world's longest river, are bordered by nine countries, with Egypt at the tail end. To date, nations such as Ethiopia, where 85 per cent of the Nile's water originates, have made little attempt to harness the water. But that could soon change, say water experts. "Ethiopia has been caught up in war until now, but now it may feel it is in a position to build a dam to tap water," said Jean-Marie Faures, water resources officer at the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) in Rome.

Most countries in the Middle East share deep ground water supplies. Several share rivers. Often, the lion's share goes to the country with the best geographical position, or the greatest political clout. Jordan is all but cut off from supplies of water from its rivers, which are controlled and heavily tapped by neighbouring Israel and Syria.

The Turkish Ataturk Dam, a giant structure inaugurated last year, has caused serious tensions with Syria and Iraq, both downstream from Turkey. The dam, keystone of a plan called the Southeastern Anatolia Project, will eventually divert vast quantities of water from the Rivers Tigris and Euphrates, affecting irrigation systems and hydro-electric power output in Syria and Iraq.

Iraq and Syria nearly went to war in 1975 after Syria and Turkey tapped the Euphrates to fill reservoirs. Water is also a major issue in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. The Palestinians and Israelis are locked in bitter dispute over access to the dwindling groundwater supplies on the West Bank. The Arabs claim the Jews have stolen their water to irrigate their own settlements and fill swimming pools. The Israelis say they are worried that if an Arab state were to be formed on the West Bank, the Palestinians would deliberately over-pump the aquifers in order to get revenge. "Water is definitely a weapon," said FAO hydrologist Faures. "I think it is very significant that one of (former U.S.

Secretary of State) James Baker's top advisors in the (Arab-Israeli) peace negotiations was a water expert."

Even when nations do make agreements with each other, there is always the fear of sabotage to installations by parties who are excluded, or of water being used for political blackmail in the event of war. Turkey's new Ataturk Dam is guarded around the clock by soldiers bristling with machine-guns.

Egypt has less than 10 years before its water supplies, and hence its food security, are seriously threatened, say international hydrology experts. Israel and Jordan have an estimated 20 years. Tunisia's renewable sources — those replenishable with rain — are likely to be used up by the year 2000. After that, the country will have to rely on pumping up deep ground water or "fossil" water from aquifers formed millennia ago, whose stocks are not replenishable. Yemen and Saudi Arabia both rely heavily on fossil water mining. In Saudi Arabia's case, estimates vary as to when the deep ground water supplies will run out — between 25 and 100 years.

AGFUND, the aid organisation founded by Saudi's Prince Talal and financed by Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — puts a special emphasis on water supplies. Almost one-quarter of the fund's \$40 million annual budget is spent on water-related projects in under-developed countries around the world. During his recent visit to Rome, Prince Talal answered questions about the especially serious water crisis in the Middle East. Following are excerpts from his comments.

Q: You have mentioned that water shortages can lead to political tensions, especially where several countries border the same river. What can AGFUND do to share those resources out more fairly?

A: "In our region, water resources are a matter of life and death. In many of these countries which do have rivers, there are problems with neighbours, and with other countries which do not have rivers of their own. We believe that the leaders of these countries should give the utmost priority to this issue."

Q: What about the particularly complex situation regarding the River Nile?

A: "There are nine countries

which border the Nile. These countries need more and more water from the Nile. In the future, the ones which will have less water will be Egypt and Sudan. There is a lot of wastage. Tens of thousands of cubic metres are wasted because this water is not scientifically used. That is why we are afraid of conflicts in our region. Unfortunately, we have seen a lot of tensions between Syria, Iraq and Turkey on this issue. We believe there will be future conflicts, unless the region deals with this problem of water."

Q: What is your view of pumping up ground water from aquifers?

A: "We should be very careful about using ground water from aquifers. An American expert has told us about problems they are having there. The level of water is going down monthly in these aquifers. In Saudi Arabia, we have the same problem."

Q: Can technology not be used to alleviate the problem? In the past, there was talk of towing icebergs from the polar regions down to the arid regions....

A: "We did research, and we found it was very expensive, so it was not feasible. It would be incredibly costly. Even if we did find a way of transporting these icebergs, we would need special arrangements in the ports to take the water to where it was needed. So we are not considering this option any more."

Q: One of the main reasons for the water crisis in the region is the pressure from the population growth. What can be done to introduce better family planning?

A: "This is a very sensitive issue. As you know, the fundamentalists in this part of the world have a great deal to say about everything, and some of them say that family planning is contrary to Islamic law. Of course, that is totally wrong. Laws are based on justice and fairness, and justice cannot be achieved where there is a high population growth rate, especially where that rate is not at all in proportion to the rate of economic growth. Some countries in the region have a population growth of 3 per cent a year, and the population explosion is taking up all their resources for development. That is why we feel governments in the area have to be made aware that this problem of population growth is an urgent one. In fact, they are aware. The problem is now to start applying policies" — World News Link.

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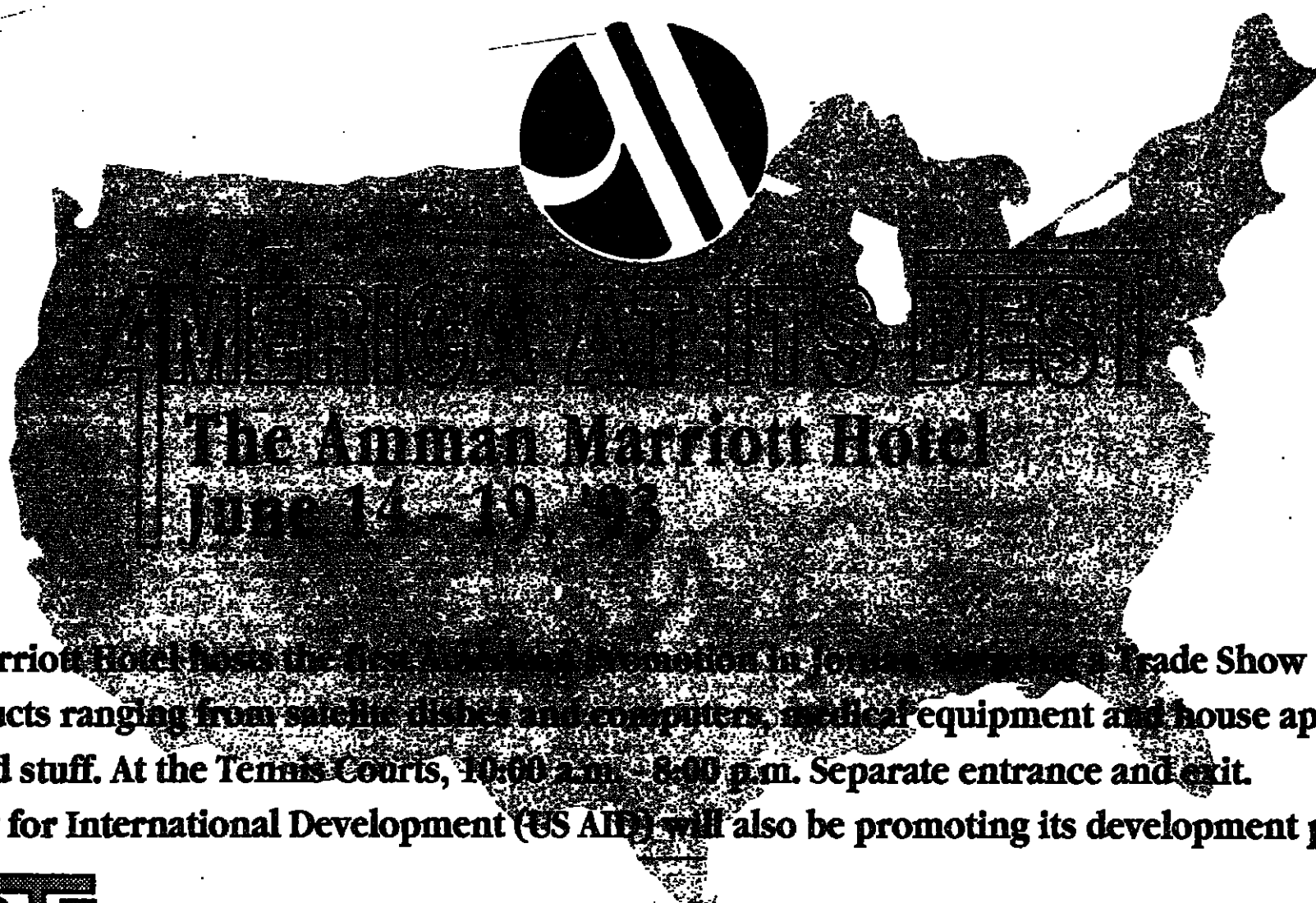
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## The Amman Marriott Hotel June 14 - 19, 1993

The Amman Marriott Hotel hosts the first American Trade Show of the latest American products ranging from satellite dishes and computers, medical equipment and house appliances to clothes and food stuff. At the Tennis Courts, 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Separate entrance and exit.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (US AID) will also be promoting its development programmes.

## BLUE NOTE

Nightly Jazz performances by the famed Bert Seager Jazz Quartet all the way from Boston at Al Rababa Nightclub and Al Yunbou Bar 10:00 p.m. Tickets JD 10++. Prizes on entry tickets comprise packages of free air tickets, free four-night stays at two different Marriott Hotels and free car rental from Hertz for the duration of the stay.

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June 14 - 15

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U.S. Dollar	0.6870	0.6890
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Deutsche Mark	0.4218	0.4239
Swiss Franc	0.4723	0.4747
French Franc	0.1254	0.1260
Japanese Yen*	0.6466	0.6498
Dutch Guilder	0.3759	0.3778
Swedish Krona	0.0953	0.0958
Italian Lira*	0.0463	0.0465
Belgian Franc	0.02051	0.02061

\* Per 100



## Gorazde under fierce Serb attack

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Serb forces reportedly closed in on the last Muslim-held stronghold in eastern Bosnia Sunday, battling hand-to-hand with the beleaguered defenders of a U.N.-designated "safe area" for Muslims.

Shelling of the runway at Sarajevo airport forced suspension of the city's lifeline airlift Sunday morning. The airport runway reopened less than two hours after being closed, but U.N. flights were cancelled for the day, U.N. officials said.

Bosnian Radio reported hand-to-hand fighting on front lines around Gorazde in eastern Bosnia, and said up to 75 people had died there in the past 24 hours.

"Gorazde is boiling," said an unidentified ham radio operator on Bosnian Radio. "Why does it have to be this way?"

Heavy shelling pounded the Bosnian capital overnight after a mortar slammed into a funeral at a Muslim cemetery Saturday, killing eight people. At least two people died and 45 were injured, said officials at Kosevo Hospital.

At least three shells landed just 200 metres Saturday night from the main U.N. compound in Sarajevo. Egyptian U.N. peacekeepers in the Bistric section of the city had to take shelter for four hours because of a bombardment, said Commander Barry Frewer, spokesman for the U.N. peacekeepers in the city.

### U.N. might withdraw

The shelling came just hours after the U.N. commander

for Bosnia warned that the tightening spiral of murder and mayhem across the country might force U.N. troops to withdraw. "If they want to fight to the death, we have nothing to do here," Lieutenant-General Philippe Morillon of France said Saturday in Sarajevo. "If there is no will for peace, we will have to withdraw."

On Europe-1 Radio he added: "I've never felt that we were so close to catastrophe."

It was not clear whether Gen. Morillon's statements had the backing of higher-ranking U.N. officials.

Gen. Morillon retained hope that "we have not reached the point of no return. If we have reached that stage, then this country will descend into a state of total anarchy."

A radio report Saturday claimed that about 420 people had been killed in the past two weeks of Serb bombardment around Gorazde. On Sunday, battles were said to have intensified.

Gorazde is the last Muslim-held stronghold in eastern Bosnia. Two others, Srebrenica and Zepa, remain in Muslim hands but only after U.N. monitors entered the two enclaves under an agreement that kept besieging Serb forces outside the settlements.

All three cities are among six "safe areas" designated by the United Nations earlier this month for Bosnia's Muslims. The other three are Sarajevo, Tuzla in northern Bosnia and Bihac in the northwest.

Bosnian Serb military reported "fierce clashes" Sunday morning between Serb and Muslim units near Foca, which is some 40 kilometres southwest of Gorazde.

Bosnia's Muslims and Croats have turned against each other in an increasingly vicious land grab as international peace plans faltered.

Serbs have seized 70 per cent of Bosnia in fighting that broke out last April after Muslims and Croats voted for independence from Yugoslavia. An estimated 138,000 people are dead or missing and a million have lost their homes.

### Croats, Muslims fighting

Croats and Muslim forces engaged in artillery duels Sunday in and around the southern town of Mostar.

Speaking from Mostar, a spokesman for Bosnian Croat forces, Veso Vigar, said artillery duels were continuing Sunday morning, following a large-scale attack by Muslim troops on the outskirts of town against a strategic road intersection, linking the town to Capljina and Nevesinje.

The dawn attack was repelled without the loss of a single Croat soldier, the spokesman said.

He also accused Muslim forces of shelling villages on the outskirts of Mostar overnight.

### Last chance meeting

Cmdr. Frewer said a meeting of Bosnia's warring parties de-

scribed as a "last chance" for peace in Bosnia is to be held Tuesday, instead of Monday as originally planned.

Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladic, Bosnian Croat forces chief Milivoj Petkovic and the head of the mainly Muslim Bosnian army Rasim Delic are to meet at Sarajevo airport Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. (0900 GMT), Cmdr. Frewer said.

The U.N. commander for the former Yugoslavia Lars-Eric Wahlgren is to preside over the meeting. He is to arrive in Sarajevo Monday, Cmdr. Frewer said.

In Zagreb, peace mediator Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg emerged tight-lipped from crisis talks in Zagreb aimed at stopping the escalating Croat-Muslim war.

"We are having continuous consultations," Mr. Stoltenberg told reporters. "As you may know we have been travelling for more than a week now and the reason of course is the seriousness of the situation in Bosnia."

The co-chairmen of the Geneva peace conference, on former Yugoslavia paid a lightning visit to the Croatian capital Saturday after Bosnian Croat leader Mate Bohan balked at meeting Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic in Geneva.

Both mediators, their U.N.-backed peace plan for Bosnia crumbling in the face of hostilities between the once-allied Muslims and Croats, avoided comment on the substance of their two-hour talks with Mr. Bohan and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman.

## ANC attacks De Klerk's plan to limit future non-racial cabinet

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The African National Congress (ANC) Sunday dismissed President Frederik de Klerk's reported desire to impose limits on a new non-racial government as the remarks of a "desperate man."

"His remarks reveal a desperate man whose party is breaking apart and whose power is slipping between his fingers," ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said.

He was responding to a Sunday Times interview in which Mr. De Klerk said he wanted a five-year plan of action to set a framework for government action after the first non-racial election, provisionally set for April 27 next year.

De Klerk told the newspaper that the new state president would enjoy considerably less power than at present, and that strict limitations on a new head of state would be entrenched in a multi-party agreement, which would serve as a "Magna Carta" of the new government.

Leaders of major parties would serve on an executive committee or inner cabinet of the new government of national unity, Mr. De Klerk said.

"An executive committee will manage the cabinet and will, on the basis of consensus, agree on the joint policies of the government of national unity which will then have to be accepted by the cabinet," he said.

"They must agree on a programme of action for five years which will become a sort of Magna Carta of the government of



Spear-wielding Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) supporters march to the cemetery Saturday to attend the funeral of a murdered IFP supporter. They came under fire as they passed through rival African National Congress territory. One protester was killed (AFP photo)

national unity, and against which all other decisions will be tested," he said.

The ANC, the largest political organisation in South Africa,

## Government scientist ends 33-day hunger strike

NEW YORK (AP) — A government scientist who was protesting the closing of his office by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) ended his 33-day hunger strike after doctors said his health was in jeopardy, according to a published report. Dr. Walter W. Stewart, a scientific fraud investigator, lost 30 pounds (14 kilograms) and his blood pressure fell 40 points by the end of his protest Friday night, the New York Times reported in its Sunday edition. Dr. Stewart, 48, was demanding that NIH reopen his office and promise to investigate the fraud cases that he kept locked-up in his files, the Times said. Dr. Stewart and a colleague, Dr. Ned Feder, were reassigned last month after a historian complained they were accusing him of plagiarism. Dr. Feder went on leave and Dr. Stewart said he was going on a hunger strike in protest. Officials with the Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees NIH, said the two had gone beyond their mission in using NIH equipment and time to accuse historian Stephen B. Oates of plagiarism in a biography of Abraham Lincoln. Dr. Stewart said they had permission to test Mr. Oates' work for plagiarism using the computer system he and Dr. Feder had developed. While receiving no promises from the institutes, Dr. Stewart told the Times that several members of Congress promised to support him. In addition, about 24 scientists and other workers at the institutes said they would support Mr. Stewart's cause, with each person fasting for a day, the Times said.

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## Azeri parliament speaker quits

BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP) — Azerbaijan's parliament speaker has resigned, deepening the nation's government crisis and clearing the way for a return to power of former Soviet communist leader Geidar Aliev.

Isa Gambarov stepped aside under pressure from a rebel commander, Surat Huseynov, who seized several towns in eastern Azerbaijan in the last week in opposition to the government's conduct of the war over Nagorno-Karabakh.

The renegade former army commander, whose rebellion claimed 70 lives in fighting last week, already had forced out the prime minister and also demands removal of President Abulfaz Elchibey and the cabinet.

The leadership change could affect the course of the 5-year-old war, the worst in the former Soviet Union and the second bloodiest in Europe. Thousands have been killed and hundreds of thousands left homeless.

By Saturday night, Surat Huseynov's forces edged closer to Baku. A presidential spokesman said the rebel leader controlled the Yevlakh, Barda and Akdash regions, 200-300 kilometres east of the capital.

The spokesman said there was no resistance in the cities, indicating support for the rebel commander.

Mr. Elchibey also faced new fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenian forces attacked Azerbaijan's strategic Agdam region Saturday with tanks and warplanes. Azerbaijan claimed Sunday to have retaken the area.

The parliament speaker, Gambarov, was expected to submit his resignation Sunday.

In a statement read by Azerbaijan television Saturday night, Mr. Gambarov said he was resigning "to reserve the country's stability and prevent civil war."

Mr. Gambarov was Azerbaijan's second most powerful leader. His position was expected to be filled by Mr. Aliev or Elbar Mamedov, head of the main opposition National Independence Party.

## Over 1,000 members of Cambodia Royalists flee 'autonomous zone'

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — The leader of the Cambodian election's winning party said Sunday he had ordered his soldiers to prepare to retake an "autonomous zone" established by the losers of last month's balloting.

Violence was reported to have erupted in the zone, which includes seven provinces of eastern Cambodia.

"We are ready to set up our own forces to fight and liberate that part of Cambodia," Prince Norodom Ranariddh told journalists. "We are not going to accept any partition of Cambodia. Cambodia is small enough."

The secessionist movement is led by Prince Ranariddh's half-brother, Prince Norodom Chakrapong. He is a senior official of the Vietnamese-installed government that lost the U.N.-organised election by a slim margin to the

FUNCINPEC Party headed by Prince Ranariddh.

Prince Chakrapong claimed the polling was fraught with irregularities and refused to honour the results, which have been recognised by the United Nations.

The government party also has contested the election results but Premier Hun Sen has rejected the autonomy zone and appealed for peace, his spokesman said.

Prince Chakrapong declared Saturday that he had established an autonomous zone across 40 per cent of Cambodia and ordered all FUNCINPEC members and U.N. peacekeepers to withdraw.

FUNCINPEC Party members said Sunday that renegade government soldiers have shot their colleagues, burned down their offices and forced more than 1,000 to flee to Phnom Penh from the seven provinces.

"Our FUNCINPEC workers and supporters had to run away for their lives or they would be shot," said Ken Savut, who fled Prey Veng Province. "The shooting is real."

He was among two dozen FUNCINPEC members who described in interviews in the capital Sunday how soldiers marched through the streets in several of the provinces, shooting several FUNCINPEC members and beating others.

It is unclear how many soldiers Prince Chakrapong has taken with him in the so-called "King Father Autonomous Zone" along the border with Vietnam and Laos.

"We have the right of self-defence. We have organised now," Prince Ranariddh said. "I would like to let you know we do have arms, weapons caches in those provinces."

## Congolese military leaders ask president, opposition to negotiate

BRAZZAVILLE (AFP) — Congolese military leaders asked President Pascal Lissouba and the opposition coalition Sunday to set up negotiations as tension mounted in the capital following disputed legislative elections.

Radio-Congo, quoting a military communique, said Sunday that the army has asked Mr. Lissouba and the opposition to each designate three delegates who would organise the negotiations in order to avoid plunging the country further into political crisis.

Mr. Lissouba "has committed himself to personally lead these negotiations," the radio said.

The military's call for peace came as opposition supporters,



## World Cup qualifying matches

## China defeats Pakistan 3-0

## Group A standings

HONGKONG (AP) — China beat Pakistan 3-0 and Yemen drew 1-1 with Jordan Saturday as both moved within a point of Iraq in Group A of the first round of Asian regional World Cup qualifying in Chengdu, China, Xinhua reported.

China's Gao Hongbo (scored in the 62nd minute) and Hao Haidong in the 64th minutes. Hongbo netted the third goal in the final minute.

Iraq, the other team in the group, was idle Saturday but leads with a 3-1-0 record and seven points. China is 3-0-2 with Yemen 2-2-1. Jordan is 1-3-1 with five points, but Iraq had played one less game.

Only the six, first-round group winners advance to the second round of Asian qualifying, from which two teams will advance to the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

Iraq next faces Jordan Monday. Yemen will face Pakistan.

South Korea beat Bahrain 3-0 Sunday in an Asian Group D game of World Cup soccer qualifying play.

The game had no effect on the five-nation group standings. South Korea already had won the right to advance to the final Asian qualifying round.

It finished Group D competition with seven victories against one draw. The other group members were Hong Kong, Lebanon and India.

In the final match of the Group D qualifiers, India upset Hong Kong 3-1 after leading 1-0 at halftime.

The Indians shocked their

opponents with deft football, with Vijayan opening the scoring in the sixth minute.

Seven minutes after the resumption, Bhupinder Thakur netted the second Indian goal and 25 minutes later Vijayan nearly converted a pass from Gunabir Singh.

Hong Kong's Wong Chi Keung, got his side's face-saving goal.

## Final Group D

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Iraq	4	3	1	0	16	2	7
China	5	3	0	2	11	2	6
Yemen	5	2	2	1	9	9	6
Jordan	5	1	3	1	6	7	5
Pakistan	5	0	0	5	2	24	0

South Korea 15

Bahrain 9

Lebanon 8

Hong Kong 5

India 3

## PSG wins French Cup final

PARIS (AFP) — Three goals in an explosive 11 minute period gave Paris St. Germain an emphatic French Cup final victory over a Nantes team reduced to eight men by the end of Saturday's match.

The 3-0 win at the rain-soaked Parc des Princes national stadium gave Paris their third Cup win, 10 years after they last won the competition, also against Nantes.

But the 75th anniversary final was thoroughly bad tempered. By the time referee Remi Harrel showed his third red card, to Jean-Louis Lima in the 82nd minute, Nantes were already three goals down and desperate.

Antoine Kambouare scored a 48th minute penalty — after fellow New Caledonian Christian Karembeu had been sent off — David Ginola fired home a 25 metre free kick and Alain Roche headed the third in the 59th minute.

Nantes collapsed after the penalty. Karembeu tripped Laurent Fournier and was ordered off after pushing the referee while protesting.

Former Yugoslav international Zoran Vucic went after collecting his second yellow card for a foul on Ginola. Lima was only on the field for 11 minutes when a crude foul from behind brought out the red card again.

Nantes coach Jean-Claude Suaudeau moaned that referee Harrel ruined the anniversary final. "As long as there are people like him around football doesn't stand a chance," said Suaudeau.

Harrel was unrepentant, saying "there were lots of things in that match that should never be seen in a Cup final in front of so many people." Even Nantes players had to admit that, in between the disruption, Paris dominated the game.

Sweden's Stefan Johansson, another Formula One veteran, was fourth fastest in a Penske Chevrolet. Bobby Rahal, was fifth on the grid in a Lola Chevy.

## Mansell gets 3rd Indy pole position

DETROIT (R) — A quick lap free of traffic early in the final qualifying session, earned Nigel Mansell, driving a Lola Ford Cosworth, his third pole position in the Indy car series, with a track record of 105.489 miles per hour (169.763 kilometres) Saturday.

It was the 10th consecutive pole position for a Ford-powered Indy car.

Mansell, the 39-year-old,

reigning Formula One champion, was more than one half second faster than Emerson Fittipaldi and a full second faster than Paul Tracy, who was third.

Mansell also had a bit of luck when both of his rivals ended their session early, after tagging the wall in turn 13 in separate incidents.

Mansell said he thought he could have been even faster.

"The conditions were better this morning," Mansell said. "This afternoon they got a little bit warmer and we had a balance change in the car."

"The problem was I hit a lot of traffic and the tires went off. You only get a little more than two laps with them when they're really good," Mansell said.

"On the first run, I got a clear run for one or two laps. On the second run, I could have gone a bit quicker, but there's no way with what seems like 40 cars on the circuit."

Sweden's Stefan Johansson, another Formula One veteran, was fourth fastest in a Penske Chevrolet. Bobby Rahal, was fifth on the grid in a Lola Chevy.

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## FIND THE TRICK

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH  
♠ 6  
♥ A 10 9 6 5  
♦ 3  
♣ A J 10 9 7 4

EAST  
♠ Q 8 3  
♥ A J 7 2  
♦ Q J 3  
♣ K 10 9 4

SOUTH  
♠ K 8 3 2  
♥ K 10 9 5 4  
♦ K 7 4 2  
♣ A Q J 2

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass  
3 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass  
5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♣.  
The Summer North American Championships, held in Toronto, produced an unusual number of strange hands, which we will feature from time to time over the next few weeks. Our first challenge is for you to select which card in the West leading a diamond, as West made hand won the decisive trick against the six hearts after a diamond lead.

North's one-no-trump response to the major-suit opening was forcing and South's rebid of three hearts was, to say the least, imaginative. The partnership was using five-ace Blackwood in which the king of trumps also counts as an ace, so South's five hearts showed two controls. From North's point of view, a small slam seemed eminently reasonable.

West, Dennis Sorenson of Gresham, Ore., got his side off to the worst possible start with a diamond. Declarer won with the jack, cashed the ace for a spade discard and embarked on a crossruff.

South, ruffed a spade in dummy, cashed the ace of clubs, discarding a spade, and ruffed a club. After ruffing another spade, declarer led a club and East ruffed with the jack. Declarer overruffed, ruffed another spade and led a club. This time East discarded a diamond and declarer ruffed low.

Declarer ruffed the king of spades with the ten of hearts and led another club. East shot in with trump queen, forced the ace of trumps by to select which card in the West leading a diamond, as West made hand won the decisive trick against the six hearts after a diamond lead.

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## Garrison, Shriver in blazing row

BIRMINGHAM (R) — Black tennis player Zina Garrison accused Pam Shriver of racism and threatened to resign from the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) board after a stormy quarter-final win over her fellow American Saturday.

Shriver swore at Garrison's entourage, accusing them of applauding her errors as she slumped to defeat in the Birmingham Classic tournament.

Shriver, president of the WTA's board of directors, also slammed balls into the netting and walls and hit a ball directly at her opponent.

punished by umpire Jane Tabor. Garrison added: "She should have got a warning. If I had done what she did I would have got a point penalty or default."

Shriver said: "I got pretty annoyed out there — it happens. I thought at 30 I had outgrown the rage but it hasn't happened yet."

"She probably said she would quit in the heat of the moment — it would be a great loss. Me the player and the off-court stuff are two different people."

"I haven't a racist bone in my body — my coach is black. That was probably a way of striking

faces Latvian Larisa Neiland who ended the run of Australia's Kristine Radford 6-3, 6-2.

Rain forced play indoors. The semifinals were postponed till Sunday in the hope of holding them outdoors.

## Stich and Ferreira reach final

Michael Stich and Wayne Ferreira, the sixth and seventh seeds, survived tough three-set challenges to reach the final of the London Grass Court Championships at Queen's Club Saturday.

Stich fought off four match points in the 12th game of the deciding set before subduing tenacious Australian outsider Jamie Morgan, ranked 83rd in the world, 5-7, 6-4, 8-6.

Ferreira, the titleholder, earned a chance of a repeat triumph by outlasting lanky American Todd Martin, the 11th seed, 6-7, 6-3, 7-5.

The German and the South African, who are also doubles partners here, will battle for a first prize of \$86,000.

Stich and Ferreira are both emerging as prime contenders for the Wimbledon title when that tournament starts June 21.

Stich, the Wimbledon champion in 1991, has shown the best form here but Ferreira insisted after his win Saturday that he also had every chance.

"I think I have a better chance than last year. I think I can get through and win it," he said. "I know that's a high goal to set but the way I've been playing this week I think I have a chance."

Stich, 24, found the burly 22-year-old Morgan a tough customer in the opening semifinal.

In the first set, Stich dropped just one point on his first five service games, then lost his serve to drop the set 7-5.

The Australian, who comes from a surfing family in Sydney and who beat Stefan Edberg on Friday, has a strong serve-and-volley game well suited to grass court tennis.

But Stich seized the first break



Zina Garrison

point he had in the match in the ninth game of the second set as he squared the battle.

The decider almost turned against Stich in the 12th game but he saved four match points, two with aces.

"I think I played very well and I'm satisfied with how I played," Stich said.

"Jamie served great and was very aggressive on his volleys which made it difficult for me. He gave me no free points."

"He may have had more break points than me. But I think I played better," he said.

"Ferreira, 21, dropped the first set to the tall, bearded Martin on a 7-2 tie-break, but levelled the match after an early break in the second set.

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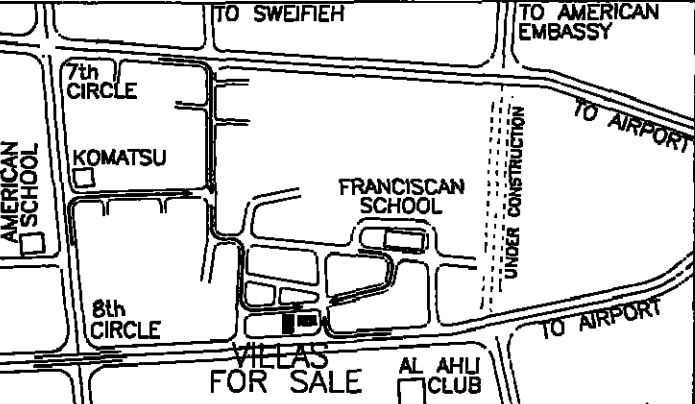
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## Rabbani, Hekmatyar hold talks

KABUL (AP) — The two chief rivals in Afghanistan's civil war met Sunday to discuss their conflict a day after they were prevented from doing so by rocket attacks, aides said.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar met in a hamlet in the Paghman Valley for more than four hours, the aides said.

"They discussed various aspects of the ongoing conflict," said Mr. Hekmatyar's spokesman Garibur Rahman Sayeed, refusing to give details.

Earlier Sunday, presidential spokesman Aziz Murad said a meeting planned Saturday between the two leaders in the Paghman mountains was cancelled when the site came under rocket attack.

Mr. Murad was not immediately available to comment on the new development.

The two leaders have been fighting for power since their groups, along with some other parties, took over the government from a fallen regime in April 1992. Tens of thousands of people have been killed in the conflict.

Mr. Hekmatyar lives outside Kabul, surrounded by his Hezbe-Islami guerrilla forces, and Mr. Rabbani, similarly protected, inside the city. A power-sharing agreement last month failed to settle their differences.

"The agenda of the meeting was to clear the misunderstanding and pave the way for the prime minister to come into Kabul and begin work," Mr. Murad told reporters earlier.

He said Mr. Rabbani was hoping to persuade Mr. Hekmatyar to start working from the palatial prime minister's office in the centre of Kabul. Mr. Hekmatyar, however, has been putting off coming into the city, fearing for his safety. Kabul is largely controlled by Mr. Rabbani's Jamiat-e-Islami party.

The Paghman area, 25 kilometres west of Kabul, is controlled by Abdul Rab Rasool Sayyaf, a Rabbani ally. The Rabbani-Hekmatyar conflict has drawn other groups into the civil war, even though all of them are part of a coalition government. Effort to reach a peace accord have been complicated by the numerous inter-group rivalries.

Mr. Murad claimed the rockets were fired by Hezbe-e-Wahdat, which supports Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezbe-e-Islami; but the Wahdat's main enemy is the Sayyaf group.

Mr. Murad also said two guards were injured by the rockets that fell near the house, but his claims could not be independently confirmed.

The groups had fought the Soviet occupation army in Afghanistan from 1979 until 1989, when the Red Army withdrew.

## Woman set to be Turkish premier

ANKARA (Agencies) — Tansu Ciller, a U.S.-trained economist, Sunday won her bid to become the first woman premier of Muslim Turkey.

She was elected leader of the centre-right True Path Party (DYP), the senior partner in the governing coalition, after two male rivals conceded defeat and withdrew after the first round of balloting at the party congress.

Her election clears the way for her appointment as premier by President Suleyman Demirel.

Ms. Ciller, 47, to succeed Mr. Demirel at the head of the coalition partnership with Social Democrats, received 574 votes in the congress. Of her two rivals, Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin got 320 votes, and Education Minister Koksak Topkan got 212.

On the first two ballots, Ms. Ciller fell just 11 votes short of the simple majority needed to win. She won when the rival candidates withdrew "to preserve the unity of the party."

Mr. Demirel, a politician for 30 years and a seven-times premier, quit his cabinet and party posts last month to succeed late Turgut Ozal as president. Mr. Ozal died April 17.

Earlier, Mr. Demirel announced his neutrality and said he would appoint the winner premier in keeping with custom.

Ms. Ciller pledged to take her country "into the 21st century" after winning the vote.

Ms. Ciller said she would become "a mother to the young" and a "daughter" to the older generation and transform Turkey into a leading nation.

Ms. Ciller, a former economics professor, was state minister in charge of the economy until she resigned last week to run for the top job, reportedly against the will of her mentor Demirel.

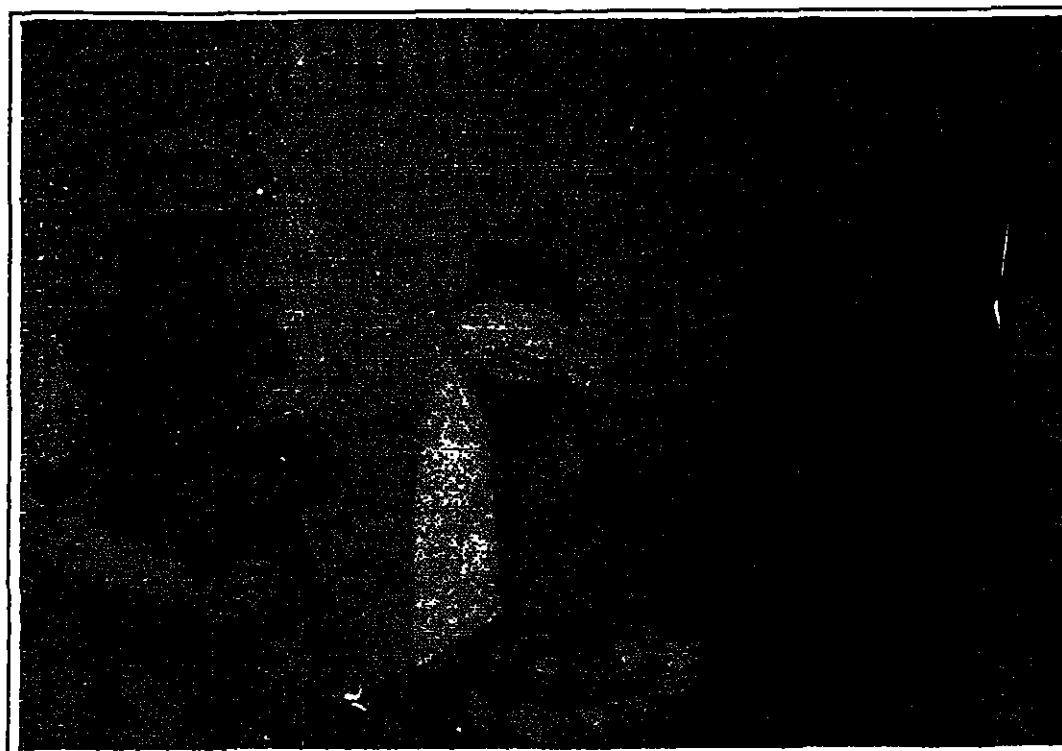
"I promise you victory in nine months' time," Ms. Ciller told party delegates, referring to nationwide local elections due to be held in March 1994. "I say I can lead Turkey into the 21st century together with the efficient cadres of the DYP."

She pledged rapid privatisation of Turkey's loss-making state economic enterprises to help solve its economic problems.

Ms. Ciller is attractive, articulate and telegenic, but failed to deliver many of her promises on the economy during her 19 months in office, her first experience of government.

"Nobody can resist a ripe idea," she said in her speech before the vote. "The idea today is change. The Turkish people want and expect change, something new. I nominated myself not for my youth, but for my personality and what I promise to do."

She said early general elections were possible and pledged to take the DYP to power with a clear governing majority.



ARRESTED: Pakistani soldiers escort a Somali hand grenade on him, near their headquarters in prisoner who was said to have been caught with a Mogadishu Sunday (AFP photo)

## Hakim seeks Muslim help to overthrow Saddam

DAMASCUS (AP) — A top Iraqi Shiite Muslim opposition leader Sunday called on Muslims worldwide to help the Iraqi people topple the government of Saddam Hussein.

Hojatolislam Mohammad Bakr Al Hakim, leader of the Tehran-based Supreme Council of the Islamic revolution in Iraq, said Muslims had to realise that President Saddam was ready to use his heavy weaponry against the Iraqi people.

"Organised military action is the only way to confront the suppression Saddam uses against the Iraqi people," Sheikh Hakim told the Associated Press in an interview.

He claimed that rebels within Iraq have been coordinating with sympathetic elements within the armed forces in an effort to reduce civilian bloodshed when rebels battle the army.

"This one-year-old organisation is continuously developing to face the attacks and plots of Saddam, and it has so far succeeded in finding a sort of coordination with Iraq's army to avoid major clashes that might cause casualties among innocent citizens," Sheikh Hakim said.

There has been no independent confirmation of his claim and it is very hard to verify, given the secrecy surrounding Iraq's armed forces.

Sheikh Hakim, who was on a visit to Syria, said Iraqi opposition groups were coordinating to boost the struggle against the regime.

He called on the international community to move towards putting President Saddam on trial as a war criminal.

Iraq's anti-Saddam factions are a disparate opposition, mostly in exile, with a long history of friction and rivalry among their leaders that even now has still not been overcome.

## Convicted militant, Israeli spy executed in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — The government hanged Sunday the first of 12 Muslim extremists sentenced to death by military courts for terrorist attacks and trying to overthrow the government.

The execution, which was carried out in a civilian court in the Mediterranean port of Alexandria early Sunday, takes President Hosni Mubarak's fight with the Muslim radicals a step further and is likely to cause the militants to retaliate with new violence.

More than 150 people have been killed in the bloody confrontation between authorities and the extremists since last year.

The radicals, who want to turn Egypt into an Iran-like theocracy, target police, Coptic Christians and foreign tourists.

A military official, who declined to be further identified, said Sheriff Hassan Ahmad was hanged. A military court in Alexandria sentenced him and seven others to death Dec. 3. Ahmad was the only one in police custody and his execution came after the president rejected his appeal for clemency twice.

Mr. Mubarak started referring Muslim extremists to military courts to ensure speedy trials, which usually do not last more than two months. The defendants cannot appeal rulings by a milit-

ary judge, but they can appeal to Mr. Mubarak for clemency. If it is rejected they can appeal once again within 15 days, and then the president has another 15 days to reconsider before the execution is carried out.

Muslim extremist attacks have continued at a consistent pace. The last major incident occurred last Tuesday when a bomb was thrown at a tourist bus which was on its way to the Giza Pyramids. Two people were killed in that attack and is wounded, including five British tourists.

Tuesday's attack coincided with a session in the retrial of radical Muslim Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and 48 others in the southern oasis of Fayyum. Sheikh Abdul Rahman is being tried in absentia. He has been living in self-exile in the United States for three years and some of his alleged followers have been arrested in the Feb. 26 World Trade Centre bombing which killed five people and wounded more than 1,000.

The state security court in Fayyum was scheduled to hold another session Sunday. The retrial, as well as the execution, are likely to cause the militants to retaliate with more violence.

There was no word on when the other executions will be carried out.

## Followers await Hindu guru's resurrection

CALCUTTA — Waiting the resurrection of a Hindu guru, the followers of a Hindu guru are refusing to cremate his body more than a month after doctors pronounced him dead.

Thousands of people daily chant incantations as they pass by the body of Thakur Balak Brahmachari, laid out on white sheets inside a chilled room behind a glass door.

"The Thakur cannot die. He has only gone into a deep trance," said Chitta Sikdar, an administrator of Brahmachari's cult called Santan Dal, or children's group. Thakur is the name of the priestly caste to which the holy man belonged.

"We firmly believe the Thakur will come back to life to achieve his dream of one world, one nation, one religion," Mr. Sikdar said. "He gave us his word he would not leave before achieving his goal. He won't let us down."

The supernatural is widely accepted among many of India's 700 million Hindus. Astrologers influence daily life, and holy men — some claiming mystical or healing powers — attract mass followings.

Political parties sometimes call on mystics to give them a boost or act as intermediaries.

Brahmachari had been a friend, consultant or guru (teacher) to many powerful Indians and claimed to have a following of 90 million people from Australia to the United States.

In the Ganges river-side village of Sukchar 20 kilometres north of Calcutta, neighbours complained that Brahmachari's body could become a health hazard, and that their village could not accommodate the tens of thousands of pilgrims.

## Libyan envoy shot dead in Congo

BRAZZAVILLE (Agencies) — Security forces on Sunday shot dead Libyan Ambassador to Congo Mahmoud Mohammad Saad in the centre of Brazzaville, the Cameroon's ambassador here told AFP, as tension rose following disputed legislative elections.

Hilaire M'bea-M'bea said Mr. Saad was killed at around 5:00 a.m. (0400 GMT) when security forces opened fire on his car as it tried to rush a city centre checkpoint.

The military high command had ordered a series of "exceptional" security measures, including spot checks on vehicles.

The Libyan diplomat drove through a barrier set up by the security forces, and they immediately opened fire on his car after issuing a warning, said Mr. M'bea-M'bea, adding that the incident took place in the administrative district, not far from the city hall.

Mr. Saad had been in this post for about three years, informed sources said.

The Libyan ambassador's body was taken to the Brazzaville morgue, while police opened an inquiry into the incident.

His killing brings the death toll in this former French colony to six since violence erupted after disputed June 6 legislative elections (see page 8). Two demonstrators were shot dead Saturday night in a clash with anti-government protesters and three other people were killed early last week.

No one at the Libyan embassy was available to comment and there was no immediate reaction from the government.

Mr. Saad had been in Brazzaville since 1989. He was appointed soon after the bombing of a French UTA plane over Niger on September 19, 1989 in which 170 people died.

A piece-by-piece reconstruction of the UTA DC-10 proved it was downed by explosives put on board in Brazzaville.

A Congolese witness linked Libyan security agents to the bombing but political observers in Brazzaville said they did not believe there was any connection between the UTA bomb and the ambassador's death.

France's ambassador to Zaire was killed last January during army riots that forced the evacuation of more than 1,000 foreigners.

## Column

### Egyptian diplomat recalled after gold smuggling case

COLOMBO (R) — An Egyptian diplomat accused of smuggling 153 gold bars worth over 200,000 in Sri Lanka has been recalled home, the Sunday Island newspaper said. It said the diplomat assigned to the Egyptian embassy in Colombo, who was not identified, may have already left Sri Lanka. Embassy officials were not immediately available for comment.

According to customs and foreign ministry officials, the gold bars were found June 3 hidden in the false bottom of a bag belonging to the diplomat as he arrived at Colombo's airport from Singapore. The bag and the gold were confiscated, and the diplomat allowed to return to his embassy. It was unclear whether the diplomat waived the usual diplomatic immunity from search or if it did not apply in this case.

Canada candidates admit smoking pot

OTTAWA (R) — The two leading contenders to become Canada's next prime minister have admitted to smoking marijuana in their youth, prompting one Toronto comedy club to name its political satire show "Inhale to the Chief." Kim Campbell, 46, who wants to be Canada's first woman premier, and Jean Charest, 44, bidding to be its youngest ever leader, both have admitted during the campaign to succeed retiring Premier Brian Mulroney that they experimented with marijuana. Ms. Campbell, a former justice minister, first claimed she had done nothing illegal but later admitted it was against the law. A bill now before parliament, supported by thousands of Canadians with criminal records for smoking marijuana, would legalise possession and private cultivation. But who ever wins the Conservative Party leadership Sunday is not expected to act on it. Both candidates oppose legalising marijuana and a survey found that 62 per cent of Conservative Party activists oppose it. Toronto's second city comedy night-club says it is fashioning a show around the topic, which last year made headlines when U.S. President Bill Clinton admitted during his campaign for the presidency that he had smoked marijuana as a young man but never inhaled it.

U.S. court nominee failed to pay tax — officials

WASHINGTON (R) — Federal appeals judge Stephen Breyer, a leading candidate for nomination by President Bill Clinton to the Supreme Court, failed to pay social security taxes on domestic help, White House officials confirmed Saturday. The revelation — first reported by CBS television — cast a shadow over the candidacy of 54-year-old Mr. Breyer, the chief judge of the federal appeals court in Boston. White House officials, who declined to be identified, insisted that Mr. Breyer was still in the running to become Mr. Clinton's nominee for the Supreme Court, succeeding justice Byron White, who will retire this summer.

Opposition leader sues prime minister for defamation

BANGKOK (R) — Thai opposition leader General Chatichai Choonhavan, who failed to unseat the government in a vote of non-confidence in parliament Saturday, has filed a defamation suit against Prime Minister Chuan Leepai, officials said Sunday. Police said Mr. Chatichai's lawyer formally lodged a complaint against Mr. Chuan Saturday afternoon for defaming him during the debate in parliament Friday night. During the debate, Mr. Chuan said a sustained smear campaign was being carried out against him.

Televised debates is considered to negate parliamentary privilege in Thailand. Mr. Chuan alleged that members of parliament had faxed anonymous leaflets attacking him to various government agencies and newspapers and had tried to persuade some parties in his coalition to abandon him.

"They even tried to get hold of the divorce certificate and find out about my son's date of birth. But they failed to get what they wanted. I felt ashamed that the respected members of parliament had resorted to such tactics only (to) topple my government," Mr. Chuan told parliament. Mr. Chuan told the chamber of the anonymous leaflets faxed from a business company in which Mr. Chatichai, who leads the Chat Pattana opposition party, is a major partner.

## Iraqis continue to suffer with no end in sight to economic slide

By Mariam M. Shabih  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

The writer, who has just returned from a working trip to Iraq, wrote this story out of Baghdad

SEARING heat, blinding sand kernels and bothersome humidity are terms used to describe the state of the weather — but in Iraq's case these are terms one could use to describe the state of the economy.

Inflation is at least 6,000 per cent of pre-war prices, unemployment is rampant and availability of the most basic commodities is often dependent on one's ability to find money needed for survival.

Although there is a black market, not everyone has access; nor can everyone or even any significant percentage of people afford any black market goods. Secondly the black market is limited in the number and the variety of items that can be found.

Frequently the goods found in indoor and under-cover black markets are limited to popular cigarettes such as Marlboro and Black Label Johnny Walker whisky and maybe some fancy cosmetics.

Medicines are scarce in the ill-famous Iraqi black market. Insulin and heart drugs, not to mention the more specialised kinds of medications, are simply not available.

The increasingly sick and immune-deficient people have no chance of a healthy recovery. Eye infections and actual blindness is on the increase, according to residents in the poor Baghdad suburb of Sad-

dam City.

"I have high blood pressure and diabetes and no medicine. — my eyes are getting weaker — Now my husband does many things for me because I bump into corners and break things," said Majeeda Omran, 62, a long time resident of Saddam City.

Thus the state of the economy has replaced the war as public enemy number 1.

The May move by the government in Baghdad to withdraw all British-made Iraqi currency and replace it with locally made photo-copy versions created a furor, and reportedly some heart attacks in bordering Arab states such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Jordan.

But in Baghdad it was not clear if the move permanently elevated the exchange rate of the dinar or did anything else of value for the Iraqi economy.

At the current public exchange rate (or black market rate) the average Iraqi family of 6 to 10 people receive combined earnings of \$9 a month. The Iraqi Central Bank has floated rumours that it will establish an official exchange rate at about 30 dinars to the dollar. If it does, it would mean a huge difference to the current official rate which is \$3 per Iraqi dinar.

Prices of meat and eggs — for those that can still afford these luxuries — rose another



This Baghdad family lives on the equivalent of \$5 a month (photo by Mariam M. Shabih)

25 per cent in May. An increasing number of families is relying more and more on government food rations, which in essence cover 60 per cent of a person's daily calorie intake but only 30 per cent of their nutritional needs.

Foreign critics have raised the ration issue saying the government could make more food available through the ration system and build less bridges and monuments. While with monuments they may have a point that can hardly be said for bridges and other basic infrastructural building or rebuilding.

In fact many reconstruction projects are necessary just to alleviate the overflow of sewage caused by broken sewage

pipes all over Iraq. The broken infrastructure in the south has made international headlines during the last two years but during this reporter's latest visit it was clear that many neighbourhoods in the capital also have an overflow of sewage and drainage.

The government says it cannot repair without spare parts and spare parts are still off-limits to Iraq according to U.N. sanctions. Even chlorine, — desperately needed to provide clean drinking water — is still sanctioned. Small amounts brought in by aid agencies is like a drop of water in a vast sea.

The south There are no official figures on unemployment in Iraq. But

in the southern city of Basra unemployment appears to be visibly higher than in other parts of Iraq. Many of its young men were volunteers in the Iraq-Iran war and of the one-million strong army, which laid off 600,000 in 1992.

Most of these young men have no technical or vocational training at all and thus are unlikely to find jobs as more than construction workers.

The reconstruction of Basra's broken bridges, of which there are at least a dozen, is finally taking place on a larger and more visible scale. Previously the attention that Baghdad's reconstruction was getting was embarrassing compared to the relatively limited effort being made in the south.

But building materials are limited and spare parts make the reconstruction of most of the city, which was hit heavily both by the allies and the Iraqis in the previous war, impossible.

The disastrous state of water-related infrastructure in particular is frightening. Backed-up sewage lingers threateningly in Basra suburbs waiting for its disease-carrying flies to claim its next victims.

No one this reporter talked to in Basra had eaten meat in the last six months. Fish in Basra, a traditional part of the southern Iraqi diet, tastes like chemicals and is literally uneatable.

But if the people in southern Iraq are genuinely hungry the people of the north appear to suffer less from this predicament. Closer to Iraq's fertile and rich soils, they live off the land and appear somewhat distant from Baghdad.

People worry more about access to medicines and the availability of jobs. Food — especially large variety of vegetables as well as meat — is simply more available than in the south and Baghdad for the average citizen.

Many people live in farming communities to begin with and those that don't often have access to them. Many Iraqi Christian communities are being kept alive by their merchant relatives who live in North America and Australia. The souls of Mosul, the pretty Sunni Arab and Christian city of about one million inhabitants, are filled with Turkish products and a can of

Coca Cola is not only newer but only half the price of its equivalent in Baghdad.

But people in the northern, Kurdish-controlled areas are beginning to suffer from their isolation from the central government. Sanctioned by Baghdad and unable to build a completely separate infrastructure, they have been hurt by their inability to trade with the Iraqi government.

Neither cheap oil nor food rations are available to the Kurds since they and the government drew control borders in October 1991.

Trade is limited to imports from Turkey at hard currency prices. Baghdad's withdrawal of the 25-dinar note made in Britain has undermined the ability of the Kurds to trade with Turkey greatly.

Unemployment, says Matin Ahmed from the town of Amadia (population 6,000), is the "most serious problem that we have."

Many Kurds are returning to the fields and becoming farmers. Most were employed by Baghdad's huge bureaucracies and government agencies at some point. These jobs have not been replaced and pensions have not been paid to the rebellious Kurds by Baghdad since October 1991.

Kurds in the Dohuk governorate, where Kurdish leader Massoud Barazani is king, say that they want trade with Baghdad and an end to the frontier between Iraqi-controlled areas and Kurdish-controlled areas. What they don't want is to be ruled by Baghdad.